

COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Guard Battalion of the Ministry of the Interior in Berlin-Biesdorf

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EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

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DATE PREPARED 4 September 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES 1 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. Prior to 24 July 1953, the guard battalion or KVPD Berlin III was subordinate to the Ministry of the Interior in Berlin and was quartered in the former nurse school in Berlin-Biesdorf. It was organized into the headquarters with 40 officers, 1 NCO and 13 EM; the motor transport company with 1 officer, 9 NCOs and 30 EM; the supply company with 4 officers, 20 NCOs and 20 EM; and the 1st through 6th Cos totaling 36 officers, 84 NCOs and 546 EM. Each company had 3 platoons and each platoon 3 squads.

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2. Officers [redacted] included Major Bork (fnu), commanding officer; Senior Lieutenant Schesge (fnu), deputy commanding officer; Senior Lieutenant Roessler (fnu), chief of staff; Captain Krieg (fnu), deputy PA; and Captain Schmidt (fnu), assistant PA, who previously attended an Antifa course in the USSR. No Soviet liaison officers were assigned to the unit.

3. Each company was equipped with 3 light machine guns, 90 carbines, 10 submachine guns and 10 pistols. Motor vehicles of the unit included 10 H-3-A trucks, 2 three-ton trailers, 6 BMW and EMW sedans, 3 BMW motorcycles, 1 AWO motorcycle, 2 tank trucks, each with a trailer, and 2 Phaenomen-Granit-27 ambulances.

4. Two of the six companies had guard duty around the clock, starting at 6 p.m., two were in reserve and two were off duty. Main installations guarded by the companies included the quarters in Berlin-Biesdorf, the Friedrichsfelde Magervieh Hof and buildings of the Ministry of the Interior on Glinka Strasse and in Berlin-Adlershof. No measures aggravating guard duty or guard stipulations were introduced after 17 June 1953.

5. About 45 percent of the personnel were of the 1935 class, 25 percent of the 1934 class, 15 percent of the 1933 class and 15 percent of the 1932 class and older classes. Twenty percent of the personnel were reliable Communists, 10 percent were indifferent, 50 percent were secretly opposed to the regime and 20 percent were openly hostile toward the regime.

6. The unit was alerted from 17 June to 10 July 1953.

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[redacted] Comment. The guard battalion [redacted] was transferred from Bouche Strasse in Treptow to Biesdorf in January 1953. It is noteworthy that the unit was apparently not employed during the June riots.

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